

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A transposed process for making a wet processed leather, said process comprising:

- (a) treating ~~[[a]]~~ an untanned pelt, which has been delimed and/or bated, with fat liquor at a pH in the range of 5.0 – 8.5 and at a temperature in the range of about 20–55°C, wherein the ~~pelt is delimed and/or bated and the fat~~ liquor is present in the range of 2-6% w/w (weight of fat liquor to weight of pelt);
- (b) stirring the product of step (a) for a period of about 3 hrs to obtain a fat liquored pelt;
- (c) mixing a tanning agent at a pH in the range of 5.0 – 8.5 in the fat liquored pelt of step (b), wherein the tanning agent is present in the range of 4 – 25% w/w (weight of tanning agent to weight of pelt); and
- (d) adjusting the product of step (c) to obtain a pH in a range of 3.5–4.5 in about 3 hrs to obtain a wet processed leather.

2. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein a synthetic tanning agent and a dye are added to the fat liquor in step (a) prior to stirring in step (b), wherein the synthetic tanning agent is present in the range of 1– 6% w/w (weight of synthetic tanning agent to weight of pelt).

3. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein a complexing agent is added in step (c).

4. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the synthetic tanning agent is selected from group of acrylic, phenol condensates, urea condensates, sulfones, melamine, and protein condensates.

5. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the dye is an acid and/or a metal complex.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the fat liquor is selected from the group consisting of vegetable fat liquors, synthetic fat liquors, and semisynthetic fat liquors.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the tanning agent of step (c) is selected from the group consisting of basic chromium sulfate, vegetable tannin, aluminum syntan and chromium-silica.

8. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the complexing agent is selected from the group consisting of polymeric syntan and acrylic syntan.

9. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the amount of fat liquor is based on the weight of fleshed pelt.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the amount of tanning agent is based on the weight of the fleshed pelt.

11. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the dye is present in about 2% w/w (weight of dye to weight of pelt).

12. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein the dye is present in about 1% w/w (weight of dye to weight of pelt).

13. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the complexing agent is present in about 2% w/w (weight of complexing agent to weight of pelt).

14. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the complexing agent is present in about 1% w/w (weight of complexing agent to weight of pelt).

15. (Currently amended) The process of claim 3, wherein the process is ~~perfomed~~ performed in about 6-10 hrs.

16. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the process generates a COD load in environment in the range of 10-15kg/ton of pelt.

17. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the pelt has not been subjected to ~~process does not comprise~~ pickling, basification, acid washing, rechroming, and neutralization steps.

18. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the process, including treatment of the pelt prior to fatliquoring, is completed within about 5 days.

19. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein water is used in the process in the amount of the range of 15000-16000 liter/ton of pelt.

20. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the process requires power in the range of 220-500 kWh.